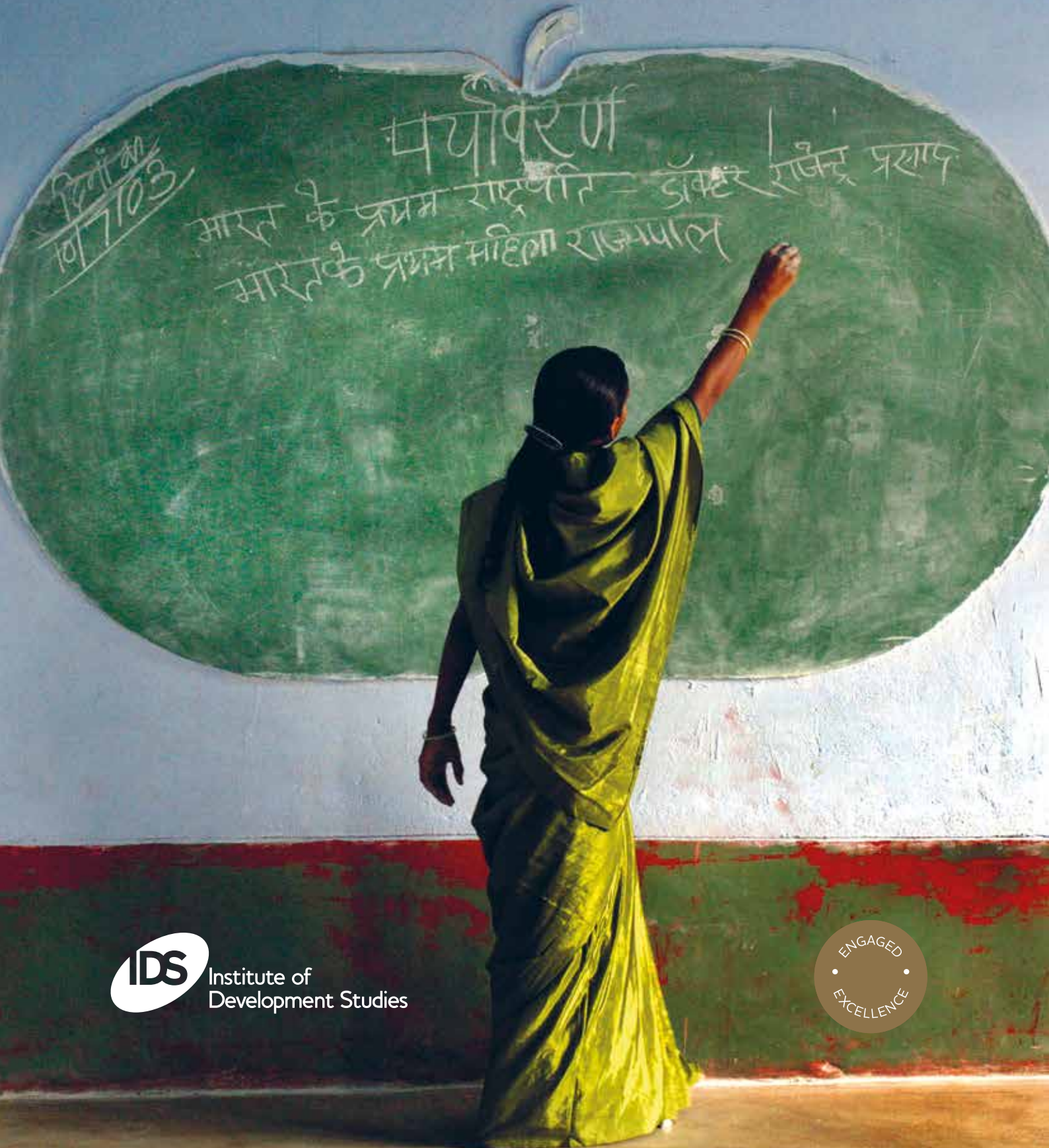


Annual Review 2017

Development through Engaged Excellence



Our Annual Review

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Our vision

Our vision is of equal and sustainable societies, locally and globally, where everyone can live secure, fulfilling lives free from poverty and injustice.

Photo: Children of fishermen walking up from the waterfront in Mahim, with the new causeway to link Worli and Bandra districts behind. India.
© Mark Henley (Panos)

Director's foreword



This past year has seen rapid and unexpected change in the global political, economic and social landscape, with challenges associated with Brexit, the Trump administration, the closing of civil society space, and populist scepticism about expertise in a so-called 'post-truth' era. As we navigate current threats and opportunities, this Annual Review provides a valuable moment for reflection. Our unique 'engaged excellence' approach – and its emphasis on robust evidence, co-creating knowledge with others, delivering real impact, and working in partnerships – has never seemed so vital. I'm therefore pleased at the growing traction this approach

is gaining both within IDS and externally, in relationships with new and existing partners, funders and students. Our international partnerships are more critical than ever, and these too are expanding and deepening.

This review comes at a timely moment in other ways too, following our successful 50th Anniversary in 2016 and as we approach the mid-point of our 2015–2020 Strategy. The global challenges emphasised in our strategy – reducing inequalities, accelerating sustainability and building more inclusive and secure societies – are all more compelling than ever. So I'm pleased to report our strong progress in addressing these challenges in all their complexity.

For instance, the *World Social Science Report* on 'Challenging Inequalities' that we co-authored shows how multi-dimensional inequalities affect all the Sustainable Development Goals, and how policy and citizen action can combine in transformative pathways towards a more just world. Gender inequalities are pervasive, yet our work this year on women's economic empowerment shows practical ways to tackle them.

The International Centre on Tax and Development has delivered some extraordinary impacts in Africa this year. Work from the STEPS Centre and on 'Green Growth Diagnostics' shows why politics and political economy matter so much to climate and environmental change, and what can be done. Our work on political inclusion and citizen participation includes an important focus on the opportunities – and challenges – offered by new digital technologies.

Our research informs and supports our teaching and learning, engaging with and supporting the next generation of development leaders. This year we welcomed an especially large, vibrant, internationally diverse cohort of postgraduate students. We also expanded our professional training programmes, launching important learning partnerships with development agencies and donors, including DFID's Knowledge for Development Programme.

So it has been a busy and exciting, as well as demanding year. I hope you enjoy this snapshot, and will continue to engage with us as we bring research and evidence to tackle the pressing global problems that affect us all.

Melissa Leach

Development through engaged excellence

Engaged excellence is IDS' distinctive approach to constructing and sharing knowledge, and to teaching and mutual learning for development.

Engaged excellence means that the quality and impact of our work depends upon us collaborating with governments, international NGOs, local civil society, citizens, donors, businesses and many others to achieve positive change, strategically informed by research and knowledge.



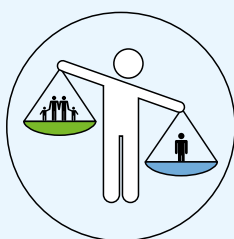


Our goals

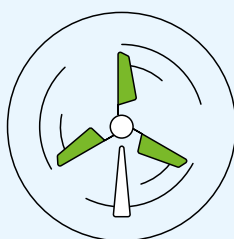
1. Contribute to transformations that reduce inequalities, accelerate sustainability and build inclusive, secure societies.
2. Embed 'engaged excellence' across all that we do.
3. Work locally and globally within a universal framing of development.
4. Create an institute that is thriving financially and organisationally, and living its values.

Photo: Women brickworkers' hands. Bangladesh.
© Trygve Bolstad (Panos)

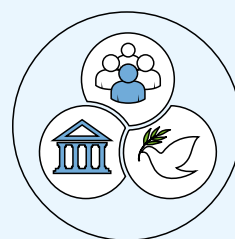
Addressing the three defining challenges of our era



REDUCING
INEQUALITIES



ACCELERATING
SUSTAINABILITY



BUILDING MORE
INCLUSIVE AND
SECURE SOCIETIES

Our emphasis on reducing inequalities, accelerating sustainability and building more inclusive and secure societies reflects our conviction that these are the three defining challenges of our era. Through our commitment to engaged excellence – applied across the interlinked areas of research and knowledge, teaching and learning, communications and impact – we work with passionate dedication to address these challenges locally and globally.

Partnerships at the heart of transformative change

Our values in practice

- IDS is RESPECTFUL of all those who work within and with the Institute and, by acting with integrity towards others, fosters relationships built on trust.
 - IDS promotes and enables a working culture that is INCLUSIVE of diverse voices and alternative perspectives.
 - IDS is RESOURCEFUL in its institutional practices and in working with those whose skills and knowledge complement, enhance and contribute to IDS' ability to deliver its vision.
 - IDS strives to be EXCELLENT across all of its working practices, in how it listens and learns, and in promoting the wellbeing of those who work within and with IDS.
- For more detail see our website: www.ids.ac.uk/about-us/partnerships

Extending our reach through strengthened global partnerships

IDS works with partners in many different ways. We invest in building enduring partnerships across the globe, including close to home, while also continuing to push boundaries. Working with new partners allows us to reach and engage different actors in the pursuit of cutting-edge research, knowledge and evidence. The breadth and depth of our partnerships and programmes contributes to IDS' ability to convene and broker global networks.

Working with Bangladeshi partners to tackle poverty and inequality

In February 2017 IDS signed a series of new agreements with partners in Bangladesh including BRAC, and BRAC University; the James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) and BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD).

IDS has a long history of working with BRAC, on programmes such as the ground-breaking Targeting the Ultra Poor Programme, which has

helped 95 per cent of its participants to graduate from extreme poverty, as well as building capacity for teaching and learning through BRAC University.

The Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) provide a mutually beneficial framework for future collaborations that can contribute to shared efforts to reduce poverty and inequality, and which will harness the organisations' complementary expertise across research, learning, development programming and practice.



*Dr Sultan Hafeez Rahman,
Executive Director, BRAC
Institute of Governance and
Development, BRAC University:
“These research partnerships
contribute both to the strategic
direction of each of the
organisations, as well as continue
to support the type of informed,
evidence-based policymaking that
has helped achieve the remarkable
gains in social development in
Bangladesh over the last 40 years.”*



*Mushtaque Chowdhury,
Vice Chair, BRAC:
“From Robert Chambers helping
to inform BRAC’s participatory
approach to development in the
1990s, to our founder Sir Fazle
Hasan sitting on the IDS board
– the connections between BRAC
and IDS are longstanding and
highly valued.”*

Strong ties across campus help make Sussex world leader for development studies

One of IDS’ most important partners is the University of Sussex. As the awarding body for IDS master’s courses and PhDs, the University is central to our teaching programme. IDS also collaborates closely with University schools and departments across a wide-range of research and knowledge-sharing activities.

The QS University Rankings 2017 ranked the University of Sussex with IDS as first in the world for development studies.

Collaborative work includes the world-recognised ESRC STEPS (Social, Technological and Environmental Pathways to Sustainability) Centre, jointly led since 2006 by IDS and the university’s Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU). Other joint projects extend, for instance, from generating new insights and analysis on China–UK Cooperation on African Trade and Investment with the Sussex Department of Economics, to working with the Sussex Department of Informatics to develop a free open-source online game, ‘African Farmer’, as part of the IDS-hosted Future Agricultures Consortium.

IDS is a core member of the recently established Sussex Sustainability Research Programme (SSRP) which aims to build on distinctive strengths in sustainability research and policy engagement from IDS and the School of Life Sciences; School of Global Studies; School of Business Management and Economics; and the School of Law, Politics and Sociology. In parallel, IDS is an active member of the Climate@Sussex research group, which brings together the SSRP alongside the Department of Geography and Climate Research, Sussex Energy Group, SPRU and the STEPS Centre.

Our cross-campus collaborations on health and cities mutually inform our research learning and teaching on the defining challenges of our era.

Bridging the research to policy gap to help address Africa’s youth employment challenge

During the past year, IDS worked in an innovative partnership with the MasterCard Foundation to support young African scholars to bring their research into policy-relevant processes.

The Matasa Fellows Network sought to connect the work of new PhD students to the politics and dynamics of policy processes, which to date has been largely absent from PhD training programmes.

The 2016 Matasa Fellows were drawn from across the fields of economics, political economy, anthropology, sociology and geography. Ten fellows were selected from among more than 200 well-qualified candidates. All have a scholarly focus on the broad topic of youth employment in sub-Saharan African countries. To make headway, perspectives from a variety of academic disciplines are required alongside a commitment to the idea of putting research to use, through policy, for the benefit of Africa’s youth. Research, particularly that produced by African researchers on African problems, will enhance understanding of the challenges as well as provide insights on how to tackle them. The programme equipped a network of young African researchers with the skills and dedication to make a positive contribution to policy around youth employment in Africa and ultimately to become leaders in their chosen fields.

CASE 1: CREATING NEW CONNECTIONS

Our two-year *Unequal Voices* project ‘*Vozes Desiguais*’ explores the politics of accountability in health systems via multi-level case studies and exchanges of experience and South-South learning. The core team brings together a long-term Brazilian partner with a new partner organisation in Mozambique. The international and country-led reference groups create new connections between organisations working on health equity across Southern Africa and beyond.

Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento (CEBRAP)

BRAZIL

N’weti

MOZAMBIQUE

CASE 4: INVESTING IN ENDURING RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

Agricultural Policy Research in Africa (APRA) is a five-year research programme analysing the impacts and outcomes of pathways to agricultural commercialisation on rural poverty, empowerment of women and girls and food and nutrition security. The programme builds on over a decade of work by the IDS-led

Future Agricultures Consortium. At the heart of the APRA consortium is an Africa-centred structure with regional ‘hubs’ rooted in long-term research partnerships in Kenya, Ghana and South Africa supported by six focal country research leads. The consortium is made up of a wider network of over 20 consortium partners from Africa, Europe and beyond. IDS hosts the programme Directorate and the Research Director is hosted in Malawi.

GHANA

West Africa Regional Hub; University of Ghana

SOUTH AFRICA

Southern Africa Regional Hub; Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), University of the Western Cape

CASE 2: DEEPENING CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS

Our *Building Sustainable Inclusion* study, which explores experiences of ‘intersectionality’ in India and sub-Saharan Africa, extends four years of previous research with participatory research organisations who have long worked with the most marginalised groups in their countries.

Ghana Community
Radio Network
Radio Ada and the
Songor Women's
Collective

Center for
Development
Services (CDS)

Socajapic
(Soroti Catholic
Justice and Peace
Commission)

Praxis Institute
for Participatory
Practices

Sustainable
Livelihoods
Foundation (SLF)

GHANA
(ACCRA)

EGYPT
(CAIRO/
ALEXANDRIA)

NORTH
EAST
UGANDA

INDIA

SOUTH
AFRICA
(CAPE
TOWN)

CASE 3: FOSTERING INTER-DISCIPLINARY ALLIANCES

The *Myanmar Pig Partnership* explores the risks of zoonotic disease emergence associated with the recent and rapid growth and intensification of livestock production in Myanmar. IDS brings a social science perspective to the partnership which is led by the University of Cambridge. The multidisciplinary team draws on government and academic researchers including vets, microbiologists and social anthropologists.

VIETNAM

University of
Oxford Clinical
Research Unit

MYANMAR

Department of
Medical Research
and Livestock
Breeding and
Veterinary
Institute

UK

University
of Cambridge,
Department
of Veterinary
Medicine

MALAWI

University
of Malawi

KENYA

East Africa
Regional Hub;
Centre for
African Bio-
Entrepreneurship
(CABE)

World-class learning



Photo: Graduation ceremony - IDS



The University of Sussex is currently ranked first in the world for development studies. The QS World Ranking reflects the strong academic reputation and quality of research and course offerings across campus, including by IDS. IDS was also ranked fourth out of 130 international development think tanks in the *2016 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report*, and fifth out of 90 university-affiliated think tanks.



“Sussex has become the most important institution in the world for international development over recent decades. Our work is reshaping how governments, aid organisations and NGOs address the major issues of our time.” Adam Tickell, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sussex



“My time at IDS, enabled in part by the Allan & Nesta Ferguson Scholarship, has been enriching, both academically and personally. The MA in Globalisation, Business and Development has broadened and challenged my thinking about the development realm in which I have been operating. IDS’ faculty are not only researchers but practitioners whose global professional experiences provide topical, real-world perspectives.” Thandiwe Moyana-Munzara, Allan & Nesta Ferguson Scholarship student, MA Globalisation, Business and Development



“IDS offers doctoral researchers an enriching environment with access to a broad range of experts with different disciplinary backgrounds. The IDS community is always bustling with energy and a commitment to answering difficult questions and this makes it an exciting place in which to undertake research. I feel particularly blessed to be among a supportive group of peers who offer guidance at every turn.” Dina Zayed, IDS PhD scholarship researcher

At IDS, teaching is seen as an extension of engaged excellence – a way of working and building lasting partnerships with individuals and organisations from across the globe who aspire to bring about progressive change.

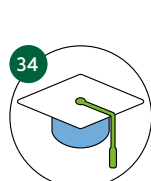
Postgraduate courses	
MA	Development Studies
MA	Gender and Development
MA	Globalisation, Business and Development
MA	Governance, Development and Public Policy
MA	Power, Participation and Social Change
MA	Poverty and Development
MSc	Climate Change, Development and Policy
PhD	by Research
For more information visit: www.ids.ac.uk/study	



MA STUDENTS



COUNTRIES



PHD STUDENTS



COUNTRIES

Supporting mutual learning and professional development

Supporting mutual learning and professional development across the sector

We provide professional development short courses and training for those working within the international development sector including policy advisers, programme officers and managers, humanitarian workers, communications and knowledge professionals and government officials.

We offer courses on a range of critical development issues including nutrition, social protection, taxation, participation, research uptake and policy engagement, and development impact. We also develop and deliver bespoke learning partnerships, journeys, accompaniment and events for a variety of development organisations. All of these are delivered by leading experts in the field.

Our professional development activities reflect our ongoing commitment to mutual learning and collaboration, and offer individuals and organisations:

- a range of high quality and bespoke courses
- a supportive and dynamic learning environment
- an opportunity to become part of a global network of active and engaged partners working in national governments, and in development and advocacy organisations.

“Very to-the-point presentations covering a large range of topics; very good lecturers; participants with a wide range of experience; good mix of lectures and exercises.”

Participant, Social Protection Course

“I really appreciated that the STEPS Centre staff were so engaged and created such a friendly, open and safe space to discuss... this really makes it. I think creating a strong group dynamic really improves the discussions, so it shouldn't be underestimated. Facilitators managed to hold good critical feedback sessions as well: balance of lectures and debates.” Participant, STEPS Centre Summer School

New PhD scholarship researcher helps address IDS' defining challenges

In 2016, IDS announced it was making available a PhD scholarship for research focused around one of IDS' three defining challenges. Dina Zayed was awarded the scholarship and is exploring the challenges of inclusion in climate change decisions, especially in settings of political inequality.



“Launching the mHealth short course was both an exciting and slightly daunting challenge, as it was the first time we had attempted anything like this. We learnt so much about teaching and technology while doing this and we were delighted with the interest it sparked and the engagement of the participants.” Linda Waldman, Director of Teaching and Learning

First online course piloted

In 2016 IDS launched an innovative online course – mHealth, Health Systems and Development. IDS Director of Teaching and Learning Linda Waldman convened the five-week course, which introduced the 30 participants to the concept of mHealth (mobile health: the provision of health services through the use of mobile devices). It explored some of the wider debates about the implications of the increasing use of mobile technology in health systems globally.

“I found the course material to be a well-rounded and comprehensive introduction to the topic. I enjoyed the online lectures and responding to the online exercises, and the questions provided many different angles for reflection and levels of engagement.” Participant, mHealth, Health Systems and Development

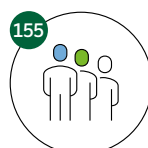
“I plan to draw on what I’ve learned in this course in my work in public health research and evaluation consulting. One of the reasons the course was of interest to me is because of the potential application to my current work.” Participant, mHealth, Health Systems and Development

PROFESSIONAL COURSES IN 2016/17



COURSES:

1. SOCIAL PROTECTION
2. PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH
3. TRANSFORMING NUTRITION
4. IMPACT EVALUATION
5. HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT
6. SUSTAINABILITY



PARTICIPANTS

An enduring engagement through IDS' global alumni network

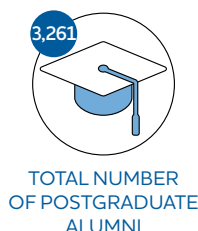
Our global alumni network is an integral part of IDS' engaged excellence approach in action. IDS alumni engage with us in myriad ways.

In the past year new IDS research partnerships have emerged by connecting IDS researchers with alumni. For example, IDS utilised the alumni network in Jordan to facilitate a partnership between IDS cities researchers and ACTED which led to a new project on urban refugees' wellbeing. Alumni have mobilised wider debate at IDS and beyond on the need to embed 'love' in development discourse, sparked by lively discussion at our 50th anniversary conference. The IDS short story competition, aiming to explore development in a more evocative way, was won by MA Development Studies alum Roberto Franco-Alba's piece 'Choosing the Sea'. His piece was published by *The Guardian*.

IDS greatly values alumni network members as strategic partners and recognises their key roles in helping us to realise our strategic vision to deliver high-quality co-constructed research, to mobilise knowledge and to continue to push the boundaries of development discourse and practice.

Life-long relationships thrive via online network

While studying at IDS many students establish relationships with fellow students and IDS staff that last a lifetime. Launched in April 2016, our online alumni network creates opportunities for alumni to build and maintain connections across continents, cohorts and year groups.



Alum in awards final for educational reforms

Alum Bolaji Abdullahi's work on educational reforms in Nigeria saw him selected as a finalist for the British Council Alumni Awards 2017 in Nigeria under the Social Impact category.

Bolaji Abdullahi studied an MA in Governance and Development at IDS in 2001/02 and went on to be

appointed Commissioner for Education in Kwara State in 2007. In this role, he led one of the most comprehensive education reforms in the country with an initiative called Every Child Counts, aimed primarily at improving the quality of basic education for urban poor and rural children with no access to fee-paying private schools.

The initiative retrained 19,000 teachers and introduced teaching manuals across the profession. A detailed benchmark for monitoring children's performance was introduced to ensure the delivery of quality education. It was the most innovative teacher training programme in Nigeria and is now endorsed as best practice by the country's federal authorities and donor community.

Bolaji said about his time at IDS:

"It was a defining moment in my career. I was pleasantly surprised by the Institute's strong interest in Africa and the sheer diversity of the student population. All the continents were represented in my class alone. This exposed me to incredibly diverse perspectives on issues. IDS gave me the discipline to welcome alternative viewpoints and broadened my world view."



Inspiring future gender champions since 1987

In 2017 we celebrated the 30th anniversary of our Gender and Development Master's course.

IDS is well known for progressive gender research, knowledge sharing and teaching. We have played a central role in the conceptual shift from a 'women in development' to a 'gender and development' focus, as well as critically drawing sexuality and masculinities into gender theory, research and practice. We believe that every person – women, men and non-binary people – can play a part in reducing inequalities and in helping to drive better outcomes for women, and for society as a whole.

This belief underpins our MA Gender and Development course, which is one of the longest running and most popular courses on gender and development in the UK.

Over the past 30 years we have supported 568 MA Gender and Development students who have gone on to do some amazing things.

Mahmuda Rahman Khan

graduated from the MA Gender and Development programme in 1994. She is currently Gender Advisor at USAID Bangladesh and Secretary-General of Shishu Aangina (a women and child development centre in Bangladesh).

"Professor Robert Chambers is my development hero and from him I learnt the question: 'Whose reality counts?' This is the question one needs to ask whenever designing, implementing, monitoring or evaluating development programmes. Learnings such as these are assets for a lifetime as a development professional." Mahmuda Rahman Khan, MA Gender and Development 1993/94

Sarita Ranchod

graduated in 1999. Based in South Africa, Sarita is Executive Director and co-founder of Under the Rainbow – Creative Strategies for Positive Change.

"Coming from a highly unequal country, I was keenly aware of IDS and the University of Sussex's reputation, particularly its relationship at the time with the anti-apartheid movement, as intellectual home to many anti-apartheid activists. In short, my personal politics led me to IDS and to Sussex." Sarita Ranchod, MA Gender and Development 1998/99

Nayelli Torres Salas

graduated from the MA Gender and Development programme in 2014. She now works as an independent consultant in Mexico where she also campaigns for women's rights with the civil society organisation, Yucatan Feminicida.

"The most rewarding experience of studying at IDS was the fact that I had amazing classmates from all over the world who shared different experiences in regards to gender and development. It was so rewarding and nourishing to discover commonalities and particularities in our personal and professional experiences. This has stayed with me throughout my career because it has made me a more open-minded professional, with a wider definition of the concept of 'development'." Nayelli Torres Salas, MA Gender and Development 2013/14

Addressing the three defining challenges of our era

We believe that reducing inequalities, accelerating sustainability and building more inclusive and secure societies are the defining challenges of our era.

Over the past year we have continued to develop and apply our engaged excellence approach, including strengthening global partnerships, working across disciplines and sectors and developing understanding of how research and knowledge can effect real change, to ensure that our work contributes substantially to meeting these challenges.

A universal framing for development

Addressing interconnected global challenges requires a universal framing of development that means progressive economic, social and political change for everyone, everywhere. From Brighton to Beijing, Lagos to Lisbon, IDS' work seeks to contribute to this by promoting mutual learning among low-, middle- and high-income countries to understand and tackle pressing issues such as climate change, health, finance and economy.

Reducing inequalities

Photo: © Mark Henley (Panos)



Accelerating sustainability

Photo: © Martin Roemers (Panos)



Building more inclusive and secure societies

Photo: © Marc Shoul (Panos)



Reducing inequalities

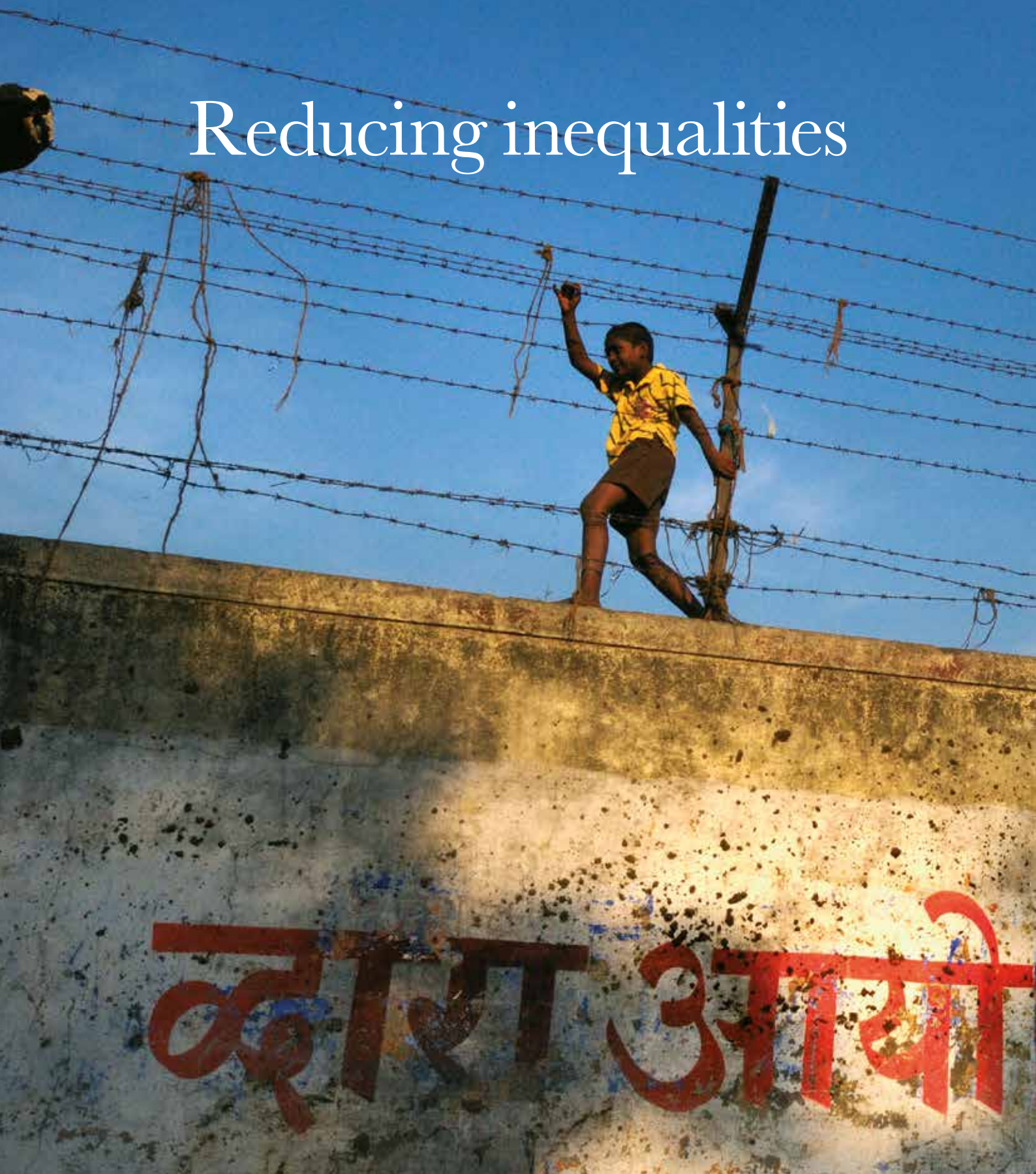




Photo: A child from Dharavi slum walks along the top of a wall protected by barbed wire, with one of the towers of the World Trade Centre behind, Mumbai, India.
© Mark Henley (Panos)

Inequality and why it matters is now firmly at the centre of research and policy agendas. Inequalities exist in all areas – from unevenly shared wealth to discrimination on the basis of gender or against those at society’s margins. At IDS, we contribute to reducing inequalities by providing and sharing new knowledge and evidence to identify their underlying causes, and identify shifts in policy and action that can drive transformative change.

Inequality causes inefficiency and harms societies – a foundational argument elaborated in one of our key outputs: an important framing paper *Inequality: Trends, Harms and New Agendas*, that helped set the tone for further high-impact work this year. This includes our contribution to the *World Social Science Report*; participation in the 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in New York; and the final synthesis report for the Life in a Time of Food Price Volatility project.

New insights and analysis on how global challenge of inequality can be addressed



Pointing to the findings of the report, John Gaventa said: “rising inequalities are a central challenge of our era – one that requires urgent and transformative action at all levels: in policy, practice, advocacy and the knowledge to inform this.”

An integral part of our strategic aims involves building on, conducting and communicating research and knowledge activities that straddle locations in the global North and South. IDS involvement in the *World Social Science Report 2016* exemplifies the work undertaken this past year to further this aim.

IDS prepared the report – ‘Challenging inequalities – pathways to a just world’ – in collaboration with the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and UNESCO. The ISSC produces the *World Social Science Report* every three years, as part of its strategic partnership with UNESCO, to explore important social science challenges and to recommend future research and policy.

The 2016 edition was co-directed by Melissa Leach, IDS Director, Professor John Gaventa, IDS Director of Research, and Patricia Justino, IDS Research Fellow, with contributions from many other IDS researchers.

The report comprises work from 113 authors, originating from 41 countries worldwide. This includes voices previously unheard in recent debates on inequality, such as from low-income countries where inequality is highly divisive but data about it are scarce.

This lack of data is one of the prompts behind the report’s clarion call to the research community to meet the challenges posed by inequality with more robust research and greater cooperation. It highlights significant gaps in social science research particularly the links between economic inequality and social, political and environmental inequalities. Inequality, it argues, goes beyond wealth and income distribution to affect political voice and access to health, education and knowledge. It explores how multiple inequalities can intersect to drive spirals of marginalisation for some of the world’s poorest people.

The report warns that unchecked inequalities could jeopardise the sustainability of economies, societies and communities, undermining efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Yet it also carries positive messages, bringing evidence of policies and political action – from international agencies, governments, and citizens and communities – that can shape pathways to greater equality.

Report wins worldwide attention

The *World Social Science Report 2016* was open access and has been widely disseminated. In the three months following publication, it was downloaded in full 10,361 times and featured in 52 press articles worldwide. The LSE Impact Blog described it as a significant effort to mainstream cross-disciplinary working on the theme of inequality.

As well as co-directing the production of the report, IDS was at the forefront of its launch, which took place at various international locations in autumn 2016. Melissa Leach spoke at the first launch event at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, in Stockholm, Sweden. The event, hosted by the Swedish Secretariat for Environmental Earth System Sciences (SSEESS), included speakers from UNESCO, the ISSC, the London School of Economics and Oxford University.

John Gaventa gave a presentation of the report at a launch in Oslo, and spoke at an event hosted by the Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR) in Delhi.

To accompany the Swedish launch, Melissa Leach published a blog on our site: *Why we must act now on inequalities*. There she underlined the timeliness of the debate on inequality and the urgent need to tackle the related issues as highlighted not least by the UK’s EU referendum result.

UN High-Level Panel report acknowledges importance of unpaid care work



“Without addressing unpaid care work, women’s economic empowerment will remain individualised and unsustainable. We are pleased that the High-Level Panel can give renewed emphasis to this critical issue.”

Deepta Chopra, IDS Fellow

Women and girls bear an unequal burden of unpaid care work – cooking, cleaning, fetching firewood and water, caring for family – particularly in societies with few or no public services. The hours and energy spent on drudgery severely limits women’s opportunities to undertake paid work. Their unpaid labour boosts wider economies but undermines their own economic potential.

Thanks to IDS and key partners, the links between this unequal burden and women’s chances of economic empowerment are gaining much wider attention. They submitted timely evidence to the recently established UN High-Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment, whose first report reflects the theme in detail.

Researchers including IDS’ Deepta Chopra were delighted by the Panel’s report. “We have been working for the last five years to make this issue visible to policymakers and practitioners, and warmly welcome the High-Level Panel’s recommendations for addressing unpaid care to ensure optimal and sustainable economic empowerment for women and girls,” she said.

Call for evidence

The High-Level Panel was formed in March 2016 to progress women’s economic empowerment as part of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Prompted by this, IDS, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Oxfam issued a call for evidence on what works in transforming the care economy.

The call yielded around 45 responses from researchers, NGOs, women’s networks, workers’ organisations and national movements across a range of geographical regions.

Two webinars were also held, focusing on the scale of the challenge, the progress made and reasons why this has stalled. In preparation for the High-Level Panel briefing, Deepta Chopra joined the UK Secretary of State for International Development at a roundtable organised by DFID and the Gender and Development Network in May 2016.

Findings from the call and supporting events led to four main policy recommendations for the High-Level Panel on addressing unpaid care: public service provision (childcare, piped water, access roads); time and labour-saving equipment (clean cooking stoves) and infrastructure (access roads to markets); provision of decent (including flexible) work for both men and women; and addressing cultural norms about gender and care provision.

Continuing the focus in New York

The focus on unpaid care continued in 2017 with Deepta Chopra invited to speak on the subject at the ActionAid, Fawcett Society and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association joint event at the UK parliament for International Women’s Day 2017.

IDS researchers joined others from the Growth and Equal Opportunities for Women programme (GrOW) at the 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women at UN headquarters in New York in March 2017. The priority theme there was women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work.

Also in New York, our NGO CSW61 Forum Parallel event shared new evidence from sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia on women’s dual roles as caregivers and workers, as part of debate on how public service provision can positively affect this balance.

Collaboration with African revenue authorities results in more equitable and efficient taxation

Photo: Kigali Rwanda, African Tax Administration Forum



Organisations that collect taxes necessarily collect a great deal of data. This ‘administrative tax data’ is a highly valuable resource for research into inequality, taxation and labour markets. It has been virtually unused for research in Africa – until now. The International Centre for Tax and Development (ICTD), based at IDS, has partnered with revenue authorities in Ethiopia, Uganda and Rwanda on three pioneering research projects using administrative tax data.

Each project was proposed by the respective revenue authorities. Each resulted in robust policy-relevant findings, increased tax collection,

improved administrative processes, and enhanced research capacity at the revenue authorities. In its October 2016 Research Review, DFID singled out the Uganda and Rwanda projects as ‘high impact’.

At every stage of each project, the ICTD embraced the IDS engaged excellence approach. Staff at the respective revenue authorities co-designed the research to ensure that it addressed, in a realistic way, problems as they saw them. Relationships between ICTD researchers and revenue staff were built based on trust, understanding and patience.

More equitable tax burdens in Ethiopia

The Ethiopian Revenue and Customs Authority (ERCA) wanted to find out if the tax burden on firms was constraining enterprise and investment, and if some firms were taxed more unfairly than others.

Using data from corporate tax returns, the ICTD team calculated ‘effective tax rates’ of different types and sizes of firms. This revealed that the smallest firms faced the highest tax burden, and that despite government strategies to promote manufacturing, it also faced one of the highest burdens.

The work led to a revision of the tax thresholds in June 2016, making the system more equitable. The ERCA requested further research collaboration and capacity building with the ICTD.



“If given space, resources and support, the staff of African administrations can do excellent research. Working with them has certainly helped to build the capacity of the ICTD.” Mick Moore, Director of the International Centre for Tax and Development



Photo: Sierra Leone.
Vanessa van den Boogaard

Taxing Uganda’s wealthy citizens more effectively

During a three-month investigation, the ICTD provided support to a group of staff in the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) to find a way to better tax high net worth individuals (HNWIs). The team surveyed literature, conducted interviews, gathered and analysed data.

Their work revealed strong evidence of tax avoidance and evasion among HNWIs including commercial lawyers and high-ranking government officials, along with major system loopholes.

The findings prompted the URA to form a HNWI Unit with five staff. It is identifying and engaging with HNWIs, upgrading software systems and flagging non-compliance. After just one year, the unit has collected more than £4 million in additional revenue.

Improving tax compliance in Rwanda through communication

The Rwandan Revenue Authority (RRA) partnered with the ICTD and the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) to conduct Africa’s first ever large-scale research experiments to determine how best to improve tax compliance.

The researchers’ first experiment involved sending personalised letters telling taxpayers about fines for incorrect declarations and the benefits of voluntarily revising declarations. The communications were found to be effective, especially among small taxpayers.

The second experiment was to evaluate the effectiveness of different messages and delivery methods in increasing compliance. It found that Rwandan taxpayers were highly receptive to friendly messages, and

that emails and SMS were the most cost-effective way of communicating with them. The RRA collected an additional £6.8 million in corporate and personal income tax following the experiments. It plans to work with the ICTD on future research and capacity-building activities.

Thanks to the success of these partnerships, DFID asked the ICTD to share insights with their ‘Community of Practice’ on tax and development. The ICTD plans to expand this work, making collaborative partnerships between researchers and revenue authority practitioners the theme of its Annual Centre Meeting in October 2017.

Photo: A view of Chandni Chowk Street in Old Delhi with traffic and crowds of people. India.
© Martin Roemers (Panos)



Accelerating sustainability



The challenge of accelerating sustainability defines our era. Climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss and land degradation are widely accepted as linked. Much is now known about the problems they cause – much less about *how* to tackle them in a way that does not undermine people's rights and livelihoods.

At IDS, our research focuses on how to achieve urgently needed transformations towards sustainability, through engaging with the diverse perspectives of citizens, markets, states, technologies and businesses. Substantial work undertaken this year includes Green Growth Diagnostics; IDS–IFPRI collaboration on modelling of pathways to sustainable agriculture; and a highly productive year for the STEPS Centre.

STEPS shapes high-level debates on innovation and the SDGs

How new innovation approaches can benefit sustainable development is a long-held research focus at the ESRC STEPS (Social, Technological and Environmental Pathways to Sustainability) Centre. As a partnership between IDS and SPRU (Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Sussex), its reputation for research in this area made STEPS and its international collaborators a logical choice to help provide the UN with high-level advice on innovation approaches to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

SPRU colleagues worked with the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD) to produce an influential paper, ‘New innovation approaches to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals’. The paper was one of two presented at the UNCSTD’s Inter-sessional Panel in January 2017, with a view to informing recommendations due to be made later in the year.

With contributions from the governments of Bulgaria, Canada, Germany, Iran, Kenya and Switzerland, the paper focuses on new trends in innovation that could offer novel possibilities for developing countries to meet the challenges of the SDGs. It also makes concrete policy recommendations for governments and stakeholders.

Five new innovation approaches are defined: mission-oriented innovation, pro-poor and inclusive innovation, grass-roots innovation, social innovation and digital open, collaborative innovation. ‘Hybrids’ of these approaches represent the most powerful opportunities for transformative change.

‘Pathways approach’ exemplified

For more than ten years, the STEPS Centre has shown how learning and exchanging ideas across sectors and continents are vital for building pathways to sustainability. The ‘New Innovations’ paper exemplifies this – and IDS’s wider engaged excellence approach – both in its contents and in the way it evolved.

It reflects the STEPS Centre’s approach of long-term collaboration with several institutions and partners including the OECD, the Least Developed Countries Independent Expert Group, the Green Economy Coalition, UNEP and Globelics.

The paper was co-authored by members of CENIT, which is based in Argentina and has worked with STEPS for more than a decade on innovation issues. It hosts the Latin America hub of the STEPS Pathways to Sustainability Global Consortium – one of six ‘hubs’ launched in 2015 and 2016, in like-minded institutions in South Asia, China, Africa, Latin America, North America and Europe.

The work for UNCSTD also draws on the STEPS Centre’s major initiative, ‘Innovation, Sustainability, Development: A New Manifesto’, which convened debates in 12 countries on science and innovation for development. The New Manifesto launched in 2010 as an anniversary update of the highly influential IDS and SPRU authored ‘Sussex Manifesto’ report of 1970 on science and technology for development.



“The launch of the Sustainable Development Goals gives us a chance to think about how to do things differently – how to innovate in ways that serve multiple sustainability objectives. This requires insights from both innovation studies and development studies.” Adrian Ely, Senior Lecturer at SPRU and Head of Impact and Engagement at the STEPS Centre

Solving Africa's energy deficit through Green Growth Diagnostics



“African policymakers face a staggering choice of policies to attract investment in renewable energy. Our Green Investment Diagnostics approach, developed in collaboration with researchers in Kenya and Ghana, offers a systematic approach to identify the policies most likely to deliver the biggest bang for the buck in specific contexts.” Ana Pueyo, IDS Research Fellow

Sub-Saharan Africa faces a huge electricity deficit, making it the only world region where the number of people without access to modern energy is set to rise. Despite hosting some of the world's fastest-growing economies, the quality of supply for those who have access is low, with frequent black-out periods that have negative impacts on business performance and quality of life.

Green Growth Diagnostics set out to understand what is blocking investment in renewable energy in Africa, where the potential, whether through solar, hydro, wind or geothermal, is vast. Findings from the project are designed to help policymakers identify key obstacles to investment, and deliver effective reforms to remove these.

The project takes a multi-disciplinary approach derived from the unique team behind it – power system engineers, macroeconomic modellers, economists, energy and finance experts, working as a consortium based in Ghana, Kenya and at IDS.

Their aim is to bring fresh insights to a seemingly intractable problem. African countries do have policies supporting renewable energy investment and technology, often backed by pledges from donors and international financiers. But these seem either not to be implemented fully, or are failing to target the most binding constraints on investment.


Applying research to real-world problems

To investigate, the team began with and evolved the ‘Growth Diagnostics’ framework, which was popular with the World Bank and others, to identify specific obstacles or ‘binding constraints’ to economic growth. The logic of the framework was that most problems have multiple causes but policymakers cannot tackle all of them at once.

The new methodology – termed ‘Green Investment Diagnostics’ – helps to narrow down the hundreds of potential constraints to a handful of the most pressing. The method takes robust international comparisons of data from a diverse set of credible sources, and triangulates this with stakeholder interviews and diagnostic signals to assess the importance of each constraint.

The team then applied the method to Kenya and Ghana, to identify the likely binding constraints to investment in renewable energy in each country. While there were country-specific constraints, analysis showed there were also commonalities. This enabled the team to produce ‘Six steps to Green Investment Diagnostics’ – a list of targeted actions aimed at identifying key constraints to investments in renewable technologies.

The project's over-arching aim is to apply research to real-world political problems to produce workable reforms. Project events in Ghana, Kenya and London show that these findings are already reaching policy circles in energy and investment for both African countries. Dr Ana Pueyo from IDS was among team members presenting findings in January 2017 at the Wellcome Trust, while Dr Timothy Afful-Koomson, Principal Green Growth Officer of the African Development Bank and Eng. Titus Ndonga Gitahi of the Renewable Energy Directorate, Kenyan Ministry of Energy, were keynote speakers at workshops in Ghana and Kenya.



Violence, displacement, ill health, starvation and environmental degradation cause millions of people to live in deprivation, exclusion and insecurity. Their vulnerability exposes them to wider economic, political and environmental shocks, and undermines their trust in institutions, governments and agencies.

Our work on building more inclusive and secure societies seeks to untangle the interactions between inclusion and security, equality and sustainability, at local, national and global levels. Achievements of the past year include successfully completing the inception phase of the Action for Empowerment and Accountability research programme; presenting findings into the effect of low-quality education on peace-building in East Africa; providing evidence of how digital technologies can promote citizen inclusion in the Making All Voices Count programme; and winning UNICEF funding for a pilot for social science research mobilisation for epidemic and emergency preparedness in health, following the successful Ebola Response Anthropology Platform.

Photo: A pedestrian bridge connecting a taxi rank and Rail Park Mall. Botswana.
© Marc Shoul (Panos)

Building more inclusive and secure societies



Boosting citizens' stake in open governance

Opening governance means working towards governance relationships and processes that are transparent, accountable and participatory, and which allow the perspectives, needs and rights of all citizens – including the most marginalised – to be addressed.

The past year has seen much activity stimulated by the IDS-backed Making All Voices Count (MAVC) programme's links to Indonesia: fruitful research projects with citizenship organisations in central Java and a visit to IDS by a delegation from an Indonesian local government as part of the Open Government Partnership.

These initiatives illustrate the 'impact through engaged excellence' that MAVC aims to achieve with its research, evidence and learning (REL) component. REL is led by IDS with a focus on using technology to drive greater government accountability and responsiveness to citizens' needs. One area in which MAVC is offering support is through the provision of small 'Practitioner Research and Learning Grants' and research mentoring, which has helped governance practitioners to explore key questions that will enable them learn and adapt to better implement their governance initiatives.

Maximising the potential of participatory budgeting

A practitioner research and learning grant from MAVC enabled Yayasan Kota Kita, a non-profit organisation, to explore ways of enhancing participatory budgeting in Indonesia. Although participatory budgeting (PB) is widely used in Indonesia, ways of practising it vary and sometimes its potential is lost.

Yayasan Kota Kita – meaning 'Our City Foundation' – works on urban planning, citizen participation and collective action in Sukarta, Java. The MAVC Practitioner Research and Learning Grant accompanied by IDS research officer Francesca Feruglio, enabled Kota Kita to review the state of PB in six Indonesian cities, and to reflect on how technology could add value.

MAVC's Indonesia Research Outreach Team member mentored the Kota Kita practitioner researchers, whose findings could significantly improve the quality and impact of both citizen engagement and government responsiveness through PB practices.

To maximize uptake of the research, Kota Kita hosted a national-level workshop in November 2016, involving 150 people from national, regional and village level government, civil society and academia. This has invigorated interest in PB, planning and the effective use of technology and data in these processes, in other cities and regencies of Indonesia.

Influencing Open Government plans

One of MAVC's goals is to ensure that IDS research influences the country action plans of the multilateral Open Government Partnership (OGP), which urges governments to promote and practice transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption and embrace technologies to strengthen governance.

An MAVC-supported research project led by research and advocacy organisation Pattiro has been engaging a wide range of stakeholders to bring clarity around the implementation of the 2014 Village Law, one of the most significant pieces of legislation in Indonesia's efforts to shift power from Jakarta to its regions. Pattiro's findings have been used to help develop OGP pilot initiatives and formulate information standards relating to the Village Law.

Bojonegoro in eastern Java is one of 15 local governments around the world taking part in the OGP sub-national government pilot. The region's governor Suyoto Ngartep Mustajab and accompanying delegation visited IDS in December 2016 to give a seminar on ways that Bojonegoro has been working towards open government since 2008, including a range of technology-based and non-tech approaches.

Around 30 IDS staff and postgraduate students attended the seminar and contributed to a lively Q&A session. The MAVC team later met the delegation to share details of more than ten research projects the programme is supporting in Indonesia, including Kota Kita. The governor is now working with Kota Kita to extend their work into Bojonegoro.



"The accountability problems MAVC partners are addressing with their innovations are complex and dynamic. Through supporting practitioners to operate in action research and learning modes, IDS has helped them to better navigate the politics of accountability and effectively utilise technology in addressing governance challenges."

Duncan Edwards, IDS Programme Manager

Ensuring technology benefits the world's poorest

Technological innovations from mobile phones to vaccines have clearly helped to advance development over the years. However these successes have often led to attempts simply to transfer high-tech solutions into development settings with little regard for context or complexity. When this happens, the solutions can fail to benefit those who most need them – poor and vulnerable communities.

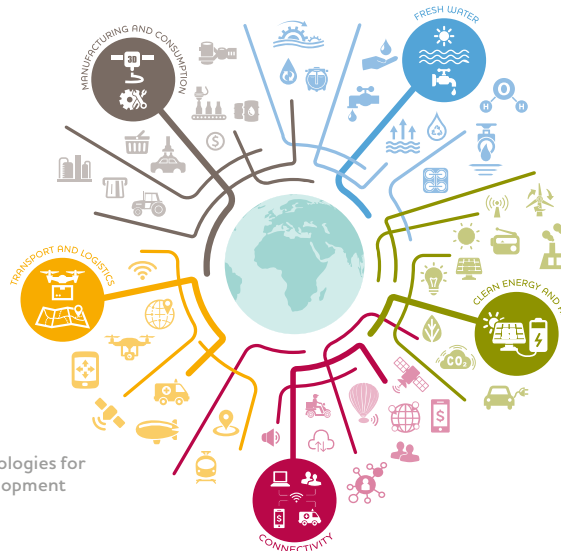
The UK's DFID commissioned IDS to explore the current state and potential of novel technologies to address development challenges. What began as a small-scale research remit has now evolved into an innovative three-year programme to pilot a number of the research recommendations and featured technologies.

Led by the Digital and Technology Cluster, the research reviewed ten frontier technologies in five areas – manufacturing and consumption, connectivity, transportation and logistics, fresh water, and clean energy and air.

To present the research, the team produced a landmark report *Ten Frontier Technologies for International Development*, with compelling 'what's next' recommendations. In order to maximise engagement with the findings, the report was delivered to DFID through a series of workshops.

Over the next three years, DFID will pilot some of the recommendations and technologies from the report as part of its Frontier Technologies Livestreaming initiative. These pilots will be carried out in an agile, adaptive fashion with the aim of influencing DFID's capacity to engage with innovative technologies.

Ten frontier technologies for international development



Call for greater collaboration

In his Foreword to the report, Sir Tim Berners-Lee issues a call for strong leadership and collaboration between governments, the private sector, technical and academic experts if the full potential of these technologies are to be realised. DFID's response so far suggests that this message is beginning to have some impact in some circles.

Specific frontier technologies explored in the report included 3D printing, drones, airships, solar desalination, household-scale batteries and the Internet of things. Already, for instance, drones have been used to map the worst affected areas of the 2015 Nepal earthquake and to deliver essential medical supplies.

The report highlights how technological advances could mean better access to essential goods and services for poor, excluded and isolated communities by generating new sources of income and delivering humanitarian assistance.

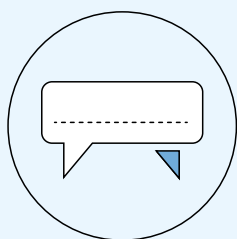
Yet it warns that technology alone will not address complex development problems embedded within wider social, political and economic contexts. For frontier technologies to be successful, they must be sensitive to national and local contexts, and include local communities and governments as co-creators and owners – not simply treat them as targets or end-users.



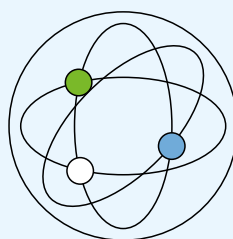
“To ensure these technologies benefit the lives of the poorest people in a sustainable and affordable way, we need to put in place a new kind of innovation system: one that is more evidence-based and systematic, more anticipatory and dynamic, more open to new approaches, and more geared to the needs of poor and vulnerable people.”

Ben Ramalingam, IDS Digital and Technology Cluster leader

What is IDS?



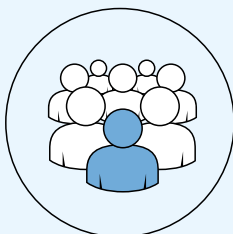
A COMMUNITY
of dedicated
development
professionals



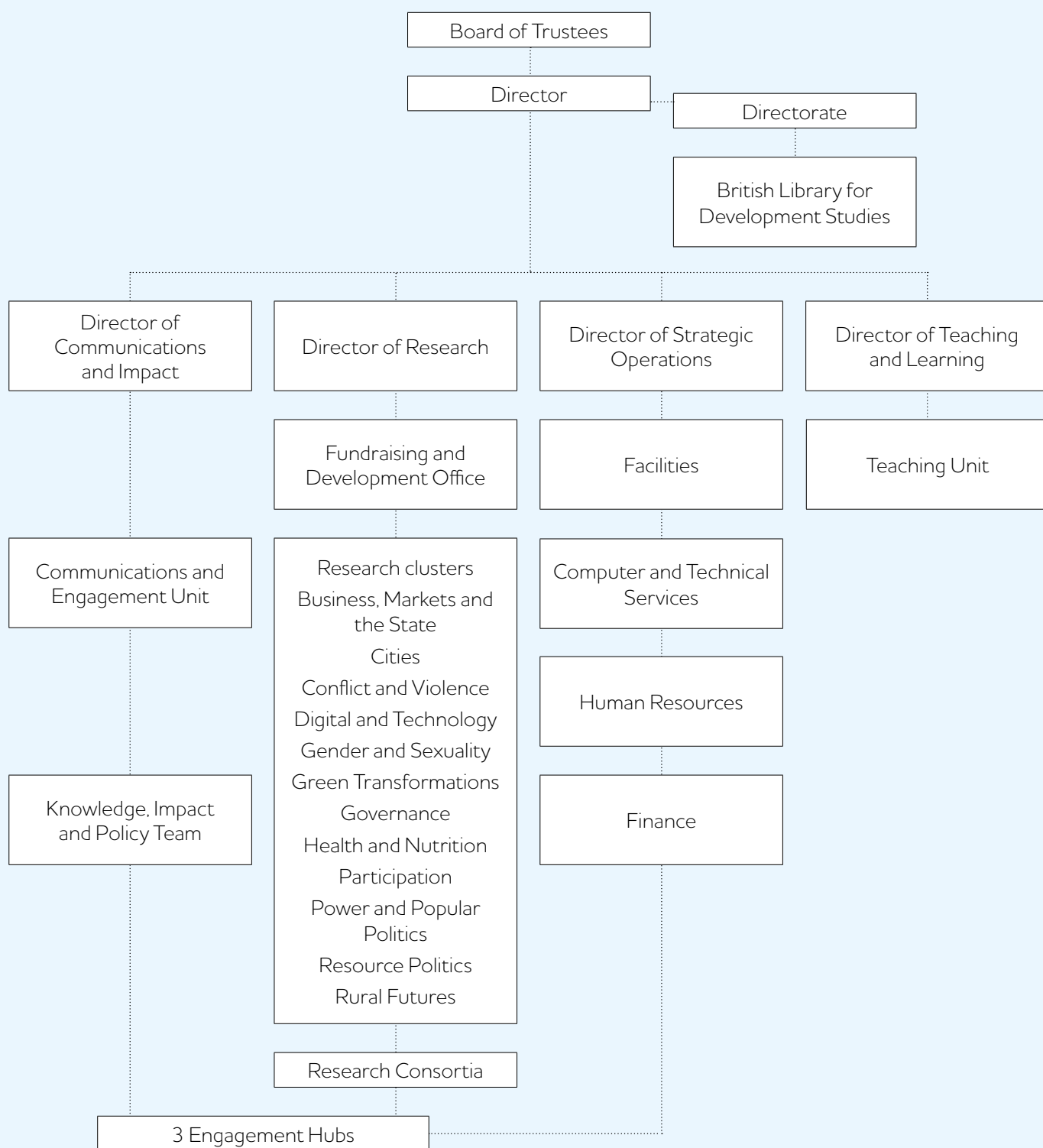
Part of a
GLOBAL NETWORK
of partnerships



A centre of
**ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE**
in researching
and teaching



A global hub of
**KNOWLEDGE
and EVIDENCE**
mobilisation



IDS Profile 2016-17



Image: Barney Haward

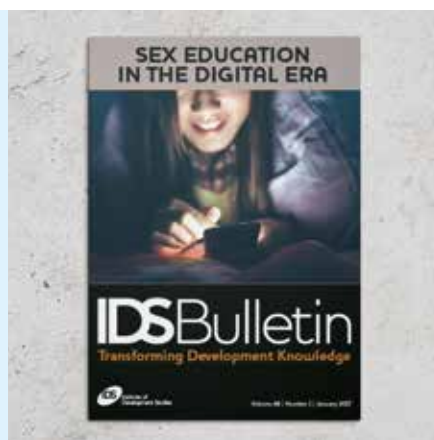


Image: Barney Haward



Photo: Martin Roemers (Panos)

OLD AND NEW MEDIA

- Media mentions up 22%
- Facebook fans up 11%
- Twitter followers up 16%

IDS PUBLICATIONS

96 IDS series publications including 36 Evidence Reports 28 Policy Briefings

The *IDS Bulletin* is our flagship, open access, peer-review journal exploring emerging international development challenges:

- 8 Bulletins published, 75 total articles
- Bulletin contributors – 69% global North, 36% global South
- In the year that it became a fully open access journal, the Bulletin had nearly 400,000 downloads.

IDS CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL LECTURE

We held a 50th anniversary conference 'States, Markets and Society', attended by more than 200 researchers, policymakers and NGOs.

More than 500 people listened to our inaugural IDS Annual Lecture 'Not Working: Rethinking Production and Distribution in the Jobless City', delivered by Professor James Ferguson from Stanford University.



“For scientific study and evidence of what works to continue to be relevant and effective we must re-dedicate ourselves to critical reflection, methodological appropriateness, participation, partnership and creative engagement, and a heightened awareness of the evolving politics of knowledge – what at IDS we call ‘engaged excellence’.”

Jim Sumberg, Grant Director of the Strengthening Evidence-Based Policy Programme



Photo: © G.M.B. Akash (Panos)



Photo: © Espen Rasmussen (Panos)



Photo: Health Systems Global

KEY MOMENTS

Strengthening Evidence-Based Policy	Supporting Global Ebola Response	Leading Health Systems Global Communications
2016/17 saw the culmination of this major 57-month programme, funded by UK Aid, which generated and synthesised policy-relevant evidence, and contributed to policy processes around seven major themes, including: food and nutrition; addressing and mitigating violence; empowerment of women and girls; pro-poor electricity provision; rising powers in international development; sexuality, poverty and law; and policy anticipation, response and evaluation.	The Ebola Response Anthropology Platform (ERAP) project, coordinated by academics from IDS, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, University of Sussex and University of Exeter, was shortlisted in the Bond Awards for Collaboration. ERAP was developed during the Ebola crisis to provide real-time advice to government, international agencies and NGOs on crucial sociocultural and political dimensions of the outbreak and won the ESRC's International Impact Award in 2016.	IDS led the communications and engagement of the Fourth Global Symposium on Health Systems Research. Co-organised by Health Systems Global, the event is the largest global symposium of its kind, hosting over 2,000 policymakers, practitioners and researchers to share ideas on resilient and responsive health systems for a changing world. IDS will continue to lead on communications for the global network, shaping discussions and partnerships on health systems research, as well as being a member of the consortium hosting the Fifth Global Symposium in Liverpool 2018.

Governance, accountability and transparency

Financial sustainability is critical, especially in an increasingly challenging funding environment, where aid and development resources are being distributed through a growing number of different government departments, foundations and private sector organisations. For the year 2016/17 IDS generated a surplus before interest payable of £1,229k, much of which refers to funds received in 2016/17 for work to be done in future years.

We continue to diversify our income streams and build our unrestricted income. Securing an incredible 105 per cent increase in MA student numbers in 2016/17 from 2015/16 has been critical and we were

delighted to be ranked first in the world, along with the University of Sussex, for development studies. IDS continues to work to ensure the highest standards in relation to good governance and financial probity. This includes the completion of a comprehensive governance review to ensure that we are applying the principles of best practice for an organisation based in the UK yet globally anchored.

Overall it has been both busy and an exciting year, and one where IDS continues to underscore the value that social science has to make to addressing some of the world's most pressing global challenges.

Committed to accountability and transparency

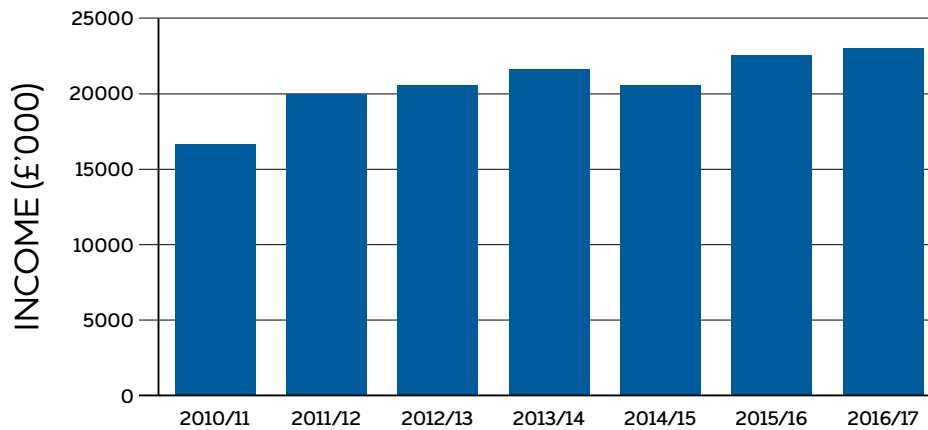
IDS is committed to ensuring the highest level of accountability and transparency regarding the funding we seek and receive, as set down in our funding ethics policy. Transparify has recognised this commitment in their global rating of the financial transparency of major thinktanks. It awarded IDS the highest five-star transparency rating.

How we are funded

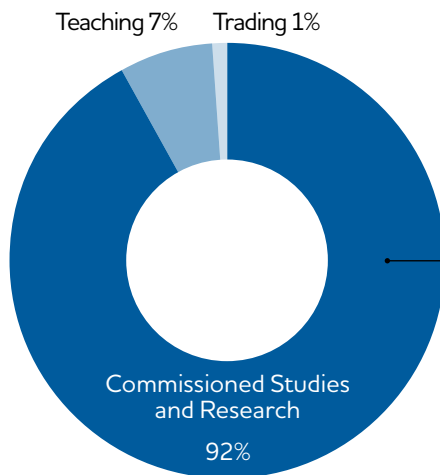
IDS receives no core funding. Funds are secured from a range of organisations and represent a combination of research grants and fees from advisory work, teaching, publication sales and some donations and legacies.

The UK DFID is our largest funder. IDS also receives funds from UK Research Councils, the European Union, various UN agencies, and a wide range of aid agencies, trusts and foundations.

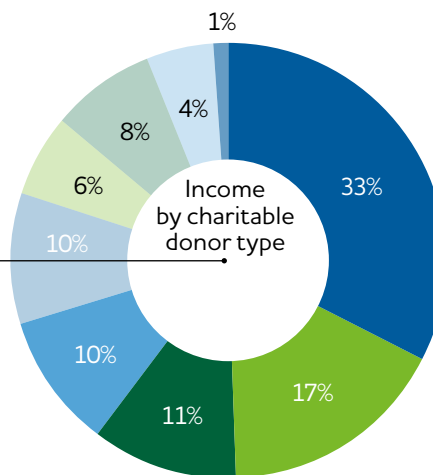
INCOME ANALYSIS



INCOME

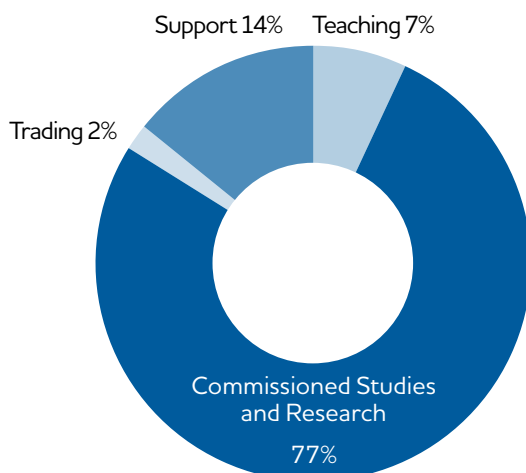


INCOME ANALYSED BY DIRECT CONTRACTOR



- UK Government
- NGOs
- Consultancy firms
- Research Councils (UK)
- Academic Institutions
- Governments (other)
- Foundations
- Multilateral organisations
- Other

EXPENDITURE



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